

## Testimony By Ms. Penny L. Pew

Director of Elections

Apache County

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members for the opportunity to testify before you today regarding the Voter I.D. requirements which are now effective in Arizona.

My name is Penny L. Pew, and I have been the elections director of Apache County in northeastern Arizona since 2001. One of our primary focus points has been providing outreach education to the voters and prospective voters to ensure that each vote cast is an informed vote.

### EDUCATION OF VOTERS

In preparation for the November, 2005 election, which was the first election to be held in Arizona implementing the new I.D. procedures, we utilized the media; both print and radio, to give voters more information on the upcoming I.D. requirements. An informational letter was sent to each registered voter informing them of the new procedures and listing the types of identification that would be acceptable. Posters were also placed in local post offices and schools.

Power Point presentations were also an educational tool used at school board meetings, city council meetings and frankly anywhere that there were voters to help get the word out.

On August 2, 2006, a county-wide Official Elections Mailer in canary yellow was sent to each registered voter outlining the details of the necessary I.D. requirements with a notice that they may use the letter along with their Voter Registration Card to cast their ballot at the polls on Election Day if they do not have the required photo I.D. This is an effort to help ensure the voter not expend funds or gas to travel to purchase a photo I.D. that would meet the requirement. Voters will also receive an additional mailer in the form of a sample ballot.

## POLL WORKER TRAINING

To assist during Election Day, an additional poll clerk was hired to act as an I.D. Clerk. This new position proved extremely beneficial and is now a permanent member of the election board, county-wide.

During poll worker training classes, a detailed Power Point presentation outlining the new requirements offered an interesting touch. Each poll worker received a corresponding copy in the form of a Poll Worker Manual to use as a reference guide on Election Day.

Each class member is encouraged to ask questions while different scenarios are presented. This is accomplished in a relaxed atmosphere where the class participates as a whole. Open questions and clarification are given by the instructor to ensure that each poll worker is uniform in their respective duties, voter to voter, precinct to precinct.

Poll workers are directed to contact the (800) HOTLINE number listed in the Poll Worker Manual if they encounter any situation that is unfamiliar. This HOTLINE number is manned by trained staff that offers assistance and if necessary, consults with the County Attorney's Office to promptly, efficiently solve issues.

To get a birds-eye-view to the I.D. procedures, I invited the outreach staff to act as troubleshooters and observe in the polling place during the May 2006 election. There were able to note the many possible scenarios occurring with these new I.D. procedures and the problem solving skills of the poll workers as they implemented these measures.

## OUTREACH EFFORTS

In the November, 2005 special election, I was able to be in the polling places during the implementation of this milestone procedure. I had the opportunity to verbally explain the procedures to the various voters when questions arose regarding their I.D. As voters exited the polling place they were offered a voluntary questionnaire regarding the procedures to better assist the election staff in further outreach efforts. After the results of the questionnaire were tallied they were for the most part complimentary.

The voters residing on the Navajo Nation account for a large percentage of the voting population in Apache County and the input of Tribal Offices is vital to the education process. I had the pleasure to meet with Navajo Nation President, Joe Shirley, Jr., to discuss the procedures and the various ideas that could be used to educate the voters residing on Native Lands. President Shirley graciously offered his services and will begin radio announcements of these new procedures to the people on the Nation using his familiar voice in attracting the attention of the voters.

Additionally, the outreach staff has been attending Chapter Meetings, Senior Centers and other locations sharing the procedures in their Native language in an effort to inform educate. Navajo language I.D. brochures are also used as well as a Power Point presentation to assist in this extensive effort.

Apache County is part of a Tri-County coalition with Navajo and Coconino counties who have diligently worked together to develop a uniform poster that is pleasing and eye catching. This poster can be viewed in Chapter Houses, Senior Centers and other locations throughout the Navajo Nation in an effort to reach the voters residing on the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Election Administration officials attended these meetings and offered valuable input in this education effort.

As we aggressively move forward preparing for the upcoming Primary and General elections, we have utilized advertisements which were developed through the Secretary of State's Office, which have also been translated into the Navajo language. Custom imprinted magnets with the logo, "You have the Power" "Bring your ID to Vote" are being distributed. A soon-to-be-published edition of an Outreach Activity Book will be used to assist voters in understanding this newly implemented voting change. The input from the voters attending Chapter and Senior Center meetings has been positive as the voters begin to understand the different forms of I.D. that can be used to vote on Election Day. The voters are expressing that they use I.D. to cash checks and to conduct other business that

requires an I.D. so "What's the problem?"

## CLOSING COMMENTS

As an election director, I have spent untold hours developing an outreach program that is original to Apache County. I have spent time in the polls and in the communities listening to the voters, learning what we as election officials can do to ensure that the most fundamental right as citizens of this great nation enjoy...the right to an informed vote with the knowledge that it will be counted without worry of fraudulent actions in or out of the polling place.

In closing, I fervently believe that it is incumbent upon us as election officials to educate the voters in the most creative ways possible in an effort to reach those voters who would be most likely affected, such as the elderly and the young voters. The voter I.D. procedures could quite possibly bring apprehension and long lines at the polling places however, the voters of Arizona and specifically, Apache County voted for this measure. Apache County voters approved this measure by a margin of 11,731 "YES" votes and 8,433 "NO" votes. It is our obligation to educate the public in the most innovative ways possible to ensure fair and honest elections. For these reasons, the education of these provisions is critical in maintaining the integrity of the election and the trust of the voters. Again, I thank you for this opportunity.